

Politics, Essex County style As Connie sees it....

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CITY NEWS

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Serving New Jersey's African-American Community Since 1983

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100 MOST INFLUENTIAL NOMINEES
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NEW JERSEY OFFERING TAX AMNESTY

TRENTON—From now until June 1, 1996, New Jersey is offering Tax Amnesty. If individuals who owe the state back taxes come forward and pay voluntarily, all penalties and interest that may have accrued on those tax bills will be waived.

The New Jersey Division of Taxation expects that Amnesty will generate \$50 million in new revenue. Once the Amnesty program is over and no more delinquent taxpayers have paid what they owe, the Division will be able to focus its considerable enforcement efforts on the truly hard-core tax evaders.

A toll-free hotline is available for more information on the program. The number is 1-800-266-6613.

What is tax amnesty? Tax Amnesty is an opportunity to clear up tax obligations for all taxes administered and collected by the New Jersey Division of Taxation without civil or criminal penalties and without interest. The formal Amnesty period began Friday, March 15.

See AMNESTY page 3

RICE BLASTS WHITMAN'S URBAN AUTO INSURANCE PLAN

TRENTON—According to Senator Ronald L. Rice (D-Essex), in a recent statement, the Whitman Administration's urban auto insurance plan fails to provide fair guarantees that urban residents can obtain moderately priced automobile insurance and could end up raising residents' insurance rates.

After two years, the Whitman Administration can do no better than come up with a plan that lets insurance companies skip another 15 percent surcharge on urban residents on top of the 35 percent surcharge they already charge? That equates to highway robbery," said Senator Rice, a long time proponent of forcing insurance companies in New Jersey to offer affordable auto insurance to urban residents.

He stated that while he applauds any efforts to increase the number of insurance agents operating in cities, the state must follow up by devising a plan to lower insurance costs for urban residents, who already pay a 35 percent surcharge above the average state rate.

"When you consider New Jersey has the highest auto insurance in the country, and when residents pay the highest rates in New Jersey, you don't need a Pentium computer to figure out why so many urban New Jerseyans can't afford automobile insurance."

The Whitman Administration needs...

See AUTO INSURANCE page 10

CUTS HURT SMALL BUSINESS CENTER

by Kelly Howard

TRENTON—In attempts to reduce the state budget the Whitman Administration plans to eliminate state funding rates privately run agency that operates small business support through New Jersey.

The New Jersey Small Business Development Center (NSBDC) network, which is part of a national partnership between the state and federal governments, the private sector and colleges and universities, looks to lose \$1.1 million dollars in state and federal funding. The loss of \$500,000 in state funding from Whitman's budget cuts will result in the loss of an additional \$1 million from the federal government, which matches New Jersey's contribution, two for one.

A spokeswoman for Gov. Christine Whitman, Jane Rebovich, said the funding cuts and the external placement have the potential of closing down the centers. She said the message that New Jersey is closed for business to small businesses.

"The reason the governor was not strenuous about the reduction in funding is because services for small businesses are available elsewhere," she said.

Whitman's sources in the small business are in other areas of the state, NSBDC has...

See CUTS HURT page 3

WATCH OUT FOR HEARINGS?

by Asikia Muhammad

The following article is an in-depth description of the events that took place during the hearings of the Subcommittee on International Operations and Human Rights to determine if Louis Farrakhan is a "foreign agent."



Congressman Donald Payne



Minister Louis Farrakhan

WASHINGTON—The proceedings at the U.S. Capitol more closely resembled a "witch hunt" than they did any kind of "hearing" to openly find facts.

The Subcommittee on International Operations and Human Rights convened to hear the topic: "Attempts by Rogue Regimes to Influence United States Policy," but despite earlier denials, the inquiry was all about one man—Minister Louis Farrakhan and his recently concluded 1996 African and Muslim World Tour.

As hundreds of stunned supporters of the Nation of Islam (NOI) leader crowded the corridors outside the main hearing room and an additional overflow room, Republican Congressional leaders presented fabricated evidence

and a stacked deck of hostile witnesses—so-called "experts" on foreign policy and "terrorism"—while they denied NOI representatives an opportunity to speak.

Despite signing a statement just five days before saying that, "This is not a hearing about any particular individual, and no such hearing has ever been scheduled," Subcommittee Vice Chairman Peter T. King (R-NY) boasted in a press statement on hearing day of a "major victory over Farrakhan."

"Today's hearing marks an important turning point in my efforts to investigate Farrakhan and publicly expose him for what he is—a vicious racist and hate monger as well as a potential national security threat," the statement said.

"We believe there is a political motive to what is going on," NOI Chief of Staff Leonard Farrakhan Muhammad told hundreds of supporters later at a rally at nearby Inani Temple African-American Catholic Congregation.

"We not only saw a hearing focused on destroying the good name and reputation of Min. Farrakhan, but we also saw a hearing that was designed to force President Clinton to do something against good political sense...to attack Louis Farrakhan and hurt himself in his own base, nationwide."

"This is a political year. The hearings today were used to embarrass the President, to try to force him to take on Louis Farrakhan so that his vote in the black community in November will be weak. Shame on you," Muhammad said.

Clinton administration officials from the State Department of Justice and Treasury, apparently ignored requests to testify. "It's a disappointment and may be a part of the larger

malady," Subcommittee Chairman Christopher Smith (R-NJ) told reporters after the hearing. "Are they investigating? The message today is: Enforce the law."

Black members of the Subcommittee appeared unconvinced. "In all candor, Mr. Chairman, I am surprised that this hearing has been called," Congressional Black Caucus Chairman Donald Payne (D-NJ) said at the outset. "Perhaps the term 'rogue regime' could be more clearly defined."

Congressman Payne noted that we have watched as military exercises have been conducted by the Communist regime of China in the Taiwan Strait in an apparent attempt to intimidate Taiwan before their elections.

See REPUBLICAN WITCH UNIT page 3

Black company wins discrimination lawsuit

CRANBURY—In what may become one of the most costly local government entity was successfully sued by a general contractor whose lowest bid was not ignored. Such acts of getting around the procurement system are rampant according to the National Black Chamber of Commerce (NBCC).

On March 11, Cranbury Township, New Jersey delivered a substantial payment to Thomas & Sons, Building Contractors, Inc. of Lakewood, NJ. The payment was made in settlement of a lawsuit filed by Thomas & Sons alleging that Cranbury violated federal and state anti-discrimination laws in 1994 when it selected the contractor to build its new fire house.

Thomas & Sons was represented by Joshua Rose of Washington, D.C. Cranbury Township decided to build a new fire house and advertised for bids in January of 1994. Thomas & Sons, which is owned and operated

by James Thomas, an African American, submitted the lowest bid. Cranbury decided to reject all bids in March and advertised for bids for a second time in April. Again, Thomas & Sons submitted the lowest bid. New Jersey law requires that municipal governments award construction contracts to the "lowest responsible bidder."

Rather than award the contract to Thomas & Sons, the Cranbury Township Committee held a meeting in which it determined that Thomas & Sons is "not responsible." It then rejected the Thomas & Sons' bid, and the bid of the second low bidder, Telephon Construction, an Hispanic firm.

The contract was awarded to Telephon & Sons, a white-owned and operated firm. Thomas & Sons then filed the lawsuit alleging racial discrimination in the contracting.

"This was the first time I sued anyone for discrimination in thirty

years in the construction business. I think the terms of the settlement speak for themselves," said James Thomas.

They paid us about what our hopes we never have to do this again but it is nice to know that the system works when you need it."

According to Harry Alford, Chairman and CEO of the National Black Chamber of Commerce, James Thomas is a role model for all black and other minority businesses. It is time to get aggressive about this blatant discrimination that occurs at all levels of government and corporate buying."

Herman Malone, President of the NBCC, states, "This is just the beginning. You are going to see all the courts inundated with such cases until procurement entities learn that we are not going to sit by any longer and just 'turn the other cheek.' Our lawyers are ready."

Prudential funds schools \$1 mil

Pictured at the recent ceremonies for the Prudential Foundation's \$1 million donation to the Newark school system are (top) Donald C. Mann senior vice president of Human Resources, The Prudential; (middle, l-r) Leo Klugholz, state education commissioner, Dr. Beverly Hall, Newark school superintendent; Anzella Neims, district assistant executive school superintendent and below, a few kindergarten, one of whom seemed pleased about the announcement.



NEWARK—Continuing in its commitment to public education, Prudential recently made a \$1 million investment in the Newark public school system and challenged other philanthropic groups to pump money into the urban district to expand educational opportunities for students.

The generous fund will support the action plan of the Newark public schools by providing seed money to sponsor programs such as early childhood development, school/community partnerships and theme-centered schools.

"This fund will serve as a catalyst and source of ideas and support for educators, schools and the community engaged in the hard work of realizing changes in the Newark public school," said Donald Mann, chairman of the Prudential Foundation.

Mann called on other foundations and corporations to follow Prudential's lead in mobilizing support for the city's public school system. The challenge comes at a time when the Legislature and Governor are scrambling to devise a new formula that would equalize educational opportunities for the state's 30 poorest and 120 richest districts.

As an incentive for other potential contributors, Mann said the Prudential Foundation—the philanthropic arm of the Prudential Insurance Co. of America—will match one dollar for every two dollars collected to raise an additional \$2 million in an effort to bring the district up to the

level of the richer ones that receive support from private foundations.

"In establishing this fund, Prudential has set a standard of excellence," said Beverly Hall, Newark School Superintendent. "This grant will allow us to move our six-point reform plan faster along. It will allow us to provide additional resources, professional development and expand our early childhood programs significantly."

Since coming to the district eight months ago, Hall has been credited as the driving force pushing for community and private partnerships to generate dollars to support her educational reform plan. The reforms she proposes include: Improving teaching methods; evaluating principals and vice principals; ensuring all schools are safe; improving the central office's efficiency; and expanding parental and community involvement.

In addition to the \$1 million dollar grant and its fund matching offer, Prudential is also providing \$500,000 for two separate initiatives of implementing full-day kindergarten and elementary school partnerships. This grant will allow the district to bring 26 more full-day kindergarten classes next fall, school officials said.

"We are very pleased because this is the type of partnership we have been talking about for a long time," said Anzella Neims, one of the district's assistant executive school superintendent.

Oceanfront contract falls through

by Ron Holland

ASBURY PARK—Failing to meet an extended deadline to raise \$2.5 million in seed money to fund a feasibility study for the redevelopment of Asbury Park's oceanfront, a union's contract with the city was terminated.

Joseph A. Gratton, president of the Monmouth and Ocean Counties Trade Union assured the city during negotiations last year—and subsequent to signed contracts—that he was positioned to raise the necessary funds needed to conduct the study and proceed with the \$250 project.

The union's proposal called for renovating the entire oceanfront including the Convention Hall and its neighboring pavilions. Incorporated in the renovations were educational and entertainment facilities.

However, the first glimpse of trouble arose when Gratton failed to produce the funds by the first scheduled

deadline. He was given an extension for February 26, but again failed. The city granted Gratton another extension—on the condition that he provide an alternative plan which to be presented by him—in the best interest of the city.

The plan, projected at raising more than \$30 million, called for Pennsylvania developer, Israel Roizman, to purchase a partially built condominium high-rise and convert it into low-to-moderate income rental housing.

The proposal also called for attracting residents from neighboring cities to occupy the units. The plan also expected to give 3.5 million dollars to Gratton for the study as well as pay off existing taxes on the property.

But, Roizman's proposal, which included slicing out an entire block originally slated for redevelopment, was rejected on the eve of Gratton's final deadline.

"I am extremely disappointed at the entire process," said John Hamilton, Jr., the new city-elected councilman who gained his seat by a recent recall election. "We are now back at square one." Hamilton said although the Roizman proposal was interesting, the Pennsylvania developer may have been misinformed about the crux of the redevelopment proposal.

Hamilton would not elaborate on the misinformation, but said the general concern was how it would interfere with the entire redevelopment of the beachfront and would it hamper any type of future feasibility study for anyone else.

The councilman stated that although the door is still open for potential developers, his concern is starting the entire process again. He also cited attorney fees and other expenses incurred by the city as the basis for his apprehension of the contract.

Sweeney tackles housing authority problems

by Ron Holland

ASBURY PARK—Despite a beleaguered reputation of financial mismanagement and resident neglect, the Asbury Park Housing Authority and its newly appointed executive director, are making headway in their effort to gain respectability in the city.

Claudia A. Sweeney, appointed as the executive director in February, has made several notable changes and has implemented programs that she hopes will move the Authority forward.

"There is a hump to get over," the Poughkeepsie New York native said at her office in the Robinson Towers Senior Complex. "We have to get over all of the problems that have accumulated here were not addressed in the past. And once we get over that hump, hopefully everything will start moving smoothly."

Sweeney hopes that two programs in particular will address at least a fraction of the problem. She has implemented a resident painter and resident exterminator program. Both are designed to train a number of tenants to

utilize these skills and assist in the improvement of the Authority's 587 units.

At the conclusion of the exterminator training—upon receipt of their state licenses—the tenants will be allowed to train fellow tenants as well as contract with the Authority. 14 residents are currently participating in the program.

Designated as a "Troubled Authority" and graded 49 percent on the Public Housing Management Assessment Program by the U.S. Department

See SWEENEY TACKLES PROBLEMS page 10

Hansen's Harlem on display at Schomburg Center

page 7

National News at a Glance

SUPREMACIST HATE GROUPS FIND ARMY BASES ATTRACTIVE

Army bases are magnets for white supremacists and other hate groups, and leaders of elite Special Forces units believe their troops are being recruited, according to a report launched by African-American Secretary of the Army Tomo West. A result of a racially-motivated killing of a black couple by two white soldiers near Fort Bragg, N.C., home of the 82nd Airborne Division, the report says one in six soldiers has seen "extremist or racist material"—recruiting posters to interfere e-mail.

—NORTH CAROLINA

CIRCUIT CITY SUEED

The Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs reports it has filed a nation-wide class action suit against Circuit City, the nation's largest retailer of consumer electronics and appliances, alleging race discrimination in hiring, promotion, compensation, discipline and termination.

—WASHINGTON, DC

BLACK MONUMENT ON THE MALL NEEDS HELP WITH FUNDS

The Black Patriots Revolutionary Memorial, the first Washington, DC Mall memorial dedicated to the achievements of African Americans has been approved by Congress but is in peril. The first push to raise the \$6.5 million needed for it to become a reality must be completed by Oct. 1, 1996. General Motors Corporation, represented by its Vice President William Brooks, has pledged \$1.5 million and will match other contributions. Call 1-800-888-9811 to make a contribution toward the Black Patriots Revolutionary Memorial.

—WASHINGTON, DC

CAMPAIGN FOR PAUL ROBESON STAMP

The Black Americans Studies program of Western Michigan University is sponsoring a celebration of Paul Robeson's 98th birthday on Tuesday, April 9th, according to LaToya Wolins, will be the launch of a two-year campaign to have a U.S. postage stamp honor his 100th birthday. Robeson first won fame at Rutgers University, where he was one of the first African Americans to play football at a major college. He led the team to a national championship. Wolins, a friend and admirer of Robeson for over 60 years is leading the movement for the stamp. Wolins can be reached via: Post Office Box 487, Pullman, MI 49450. Telephone 616-236-5680.—PULLMAN, MI

BLACK WOMEN: YOU GOT TO MOVE

Black women who are having trouble shedding pounds, consider this: A study suggests that the metabolic rate of overweight black women at rest is about five percent slower than that for white women.

—WASHINGTON, DC

ORGANIZATIONS UNITE TO EXPAND MINORITY HOMEOWNERSHIP

The Metro Herald (Alexandria, VA) reports Freddie Mac, a national mortgage company, is linking with networks of churches and housing organizations across the country to form coalitions to expand access to home financing for at least 150,000 low-and-moderate-income and minority homeowners. For more information call 202-526-2000 or 1-800-365-3213.—ALEXANDRIA, VA

HAVE A HAPPY AND SAFE EASTER

NATION

Republican witch hunt or hearings?

Continued from page 1

"Yet, while the U.S. has sent the U.S.S. Independence battle group to the area to be followed by another aircraft carrier, the Nimitz, in what could escalate into a U.S./China showdown, China continues to enjoy 'Most Favored Nation' status as a U.S. trading partner. Maybe one of our panelists could explain this disparity to us today," Payne stated. No explanation, however, was offered.

"I would hope that we are not going back to the McCarthy Era," Rep. Cynthia McKinney (D-GA) said at the opening. "When in practice, we stopped supporting the precepts of the Constitution and democracy by prohibiting freedom of association and speech."

"If this hearing is a thinly veiled excuse to do a little Louis Farrakhan bashing, then I would like to get this statement out of the way, up front. Louis Farrakhan is not above the law. But, neither is Louis Farrakhan because the protections of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights," McKinney noted.

Ironically, the principal law with which Rep. King threatens to prosecute Min. Farrakhan, has never been tested Constitutionally, although it has been on the law books for 207 years.

"I don't believe that it has been tested," Rep. Bob Barr (R-GA), a former U.S. Attorney admitted in answer to a question from Rep. Payne. "It's been on the books for as long as much of our history. I think going back to 1789. I'm not aware of any prosecutions under it."

Another questionable provision—the International Emergency Economic Powers Act—confers power to the President, only "...if the President

declares a national emergency with respect to such a threat," Rep. Barr testified.

"Is there a national emergency as it goes to relates to this particular situation," Rep. Payne asked. "It can be as little, I suppose, as a nation posing threats to individual U.S. citizens, or as much as armed hostilities," Barreplied.

Rep. Barr has been active in supporting legislation to repeal the ban on dangerous assault weapons. He was also reminded by Rep. Payne of white supremacist and militia groups, and the threat they pose to national security, as well as the threat to national unity created by the inclusion of the Confederate flag in the state flags of Georgia and Mississippi.

"For example in your state of Georgia," Rep. Payne said. "I see about nine or 10 (threats): the North Georgia Militia, Citizens for a Constitutional Georgia, Cavalier Knights of the KKK, Fraternal White Knights of the KKK, the Friendly Knights of the KKK, the United KKK, the Confederate Hammer Skins, the First Strike Skinheads, the U.S. Klan Knights of the KKK."

"All of these are," Rep. Payne continued, "according to a report done by the Library of Congress, (subject to question about whether they present a national security threat)." Rep. Barr conceded that such groups should be prosecuted.

"These groups talk about an Aryan nation," Rep. Payne said, "now that, to me, is not following this nation's rules."

"My concern is that there are many things going on that I think ought to be looked at. Since April, 1993 because of activities of this kind, there have been 26 black churches burned down."

Congressman Payne voiced some past acts of hate committed by whites that should really be "looked into" by the hearings.

"We have the Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms Bureau, the 'Good Old Boys Network' which came together to talk about having Dr. Martin Luther King in the middle of their practice targets. They would all shoot at him, members of our federal government, the ATF, the Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms Bureau."

"I'm concerned about the men from the Aryan Nation who left Fort Bragg, three soldiers who found two black people walking on the street, and shot them down in cold blood. What I'm saying," Rep. Payne continued, "is that I support this hearing, have no problem with it. But I'd like to see some hearing about some of these things that are happening in our country, because they are as deplorable as anything else."

Payne continued that he did not see the attention for the hearing and that the Congress has not had a hearing on any of the issues that he mentioned since it came to session. He further said that he would like the same person who continually hammer about this Farrakhan situation to stand up and start talking about these things "that affect my community, and that's the problem on both sides of the aisle. I'm getting sick and tired of it," he concluded.

In an attempt to lay the blame somewhere Rep. McKinney stated, "Unless one is privy to reports gathered by U.S. intelligence agencies, the only information most of us have about the supposed activities of 'rogue agents' are in the popular press. Most of us have learned to discount the outrageous claims made by despots in their

own media."

Congressional and administration critics of the Farrakhan tour, however, complained only of statements attributed to press reports, which would be inadmissible in any court of law. Other flammable evidence and a series of disrespectful references to "Reverend Farrakhan" (as though the Muslim leader is a Protestant clergy member) by Michael A. Ledeen, provoked outbursts from observers in the audience.

"I do not believe that Reverend Farrakhan will have much of an effect on the American policy," he testified. He was interrupted by shouts. "I have asked everyone here to show respect for the witnesses," Chairman Smith said, pounding his gavel.

"Show respect for his name. It is Minister Farrakhan, supporters shouted back.

In response, Smith stated, "It is the rules of this Subcommittee, the full Committee, the House of Representatives, and this goes as well for the Senate, that audience participation is not allowed. These gentlemen are the witnesses. I will keep the hearing record open at the end, and if you would like to make a submission, we'll be more than happy to include it," he promised.

Ledeen resumed his testimony stating that he did not believe that "Reverend Farrakhan will have much of an effect on the American policy, provided that our political leaders present the facts to the American people."

"However, I would be remiss if I did not say that it is discouraging that there are no (Clinton) Administration spokesmen here, as it was terribly disappointing to hear Pres. Clinton, on the occasion of the Million Man

March, call on the American people to focus not on the rhetorical excesses of the leader, but on 'the faces of the people.'" This is a profound error," Ledeen blurted out.

Later, a woman frustrated at the one-sided testimony shouted out, "if you are guilty of destroying countless Africans. Face your sins. I cannot stand to sit here any longer and listen to you point the finger at a man who has saved the souls of many in this country." She was arrested and charged with "disruption of Congress," a misdemeanor.

At the conclusion of questions to the second panel of anti Farrakhan witnesses, Chairman Smith adjourned the session, and quickly left the room, ordering Capitol Police to clear the hearing room of Muslims and other blacks, demanding that he keep his promise to hear their submissions.

The term "reverend" undermines a claim by Rep. King, that supporters of Min. Farrakhan threatened his life. Security was beefed up at both his Capitol Hill and his Nassau County, NY offices after Rep. King reported on February 16 that the morning before, "at approximately 9:30 a.m., an anonymous male caller speaking in a calm and deliberate manner, phoned his Massapequa Park, Long Island office and stated:

"We are sick and tired of the way King is harassing Reverend Farrakhan. He is a piece of racist slime and he better stop."

"If he continues we are going to blow up the office. We're going to come down there and pull every white cracker out of the office and put a bullet in their head. We're serious. Every cracker in that office is going to be killed. Believe me, you'll hear me

See WITCH HUNT? page 10

Tax amnesty

Continued from page 1

1996 and will end on June 1, 1996.

What tax periods are included? Tax liabilities incurred for tax returns due on or after January 1, 1987, and prior to January 1, 1996 are eligible for Amnesty.

What are the benefits of participating in Tax Amnesty? You will pay only the amount of tax you owe, without any civil or criminal penalties, without any interest, and without any costs of collection. After the Tax Amnesty period ends, an additional 5 percent penalty will be imposed.

Does everyone qualify? Almost everyone. A taxpayer who is under criminal investigation or charge for any State tax matter, as certified by the county prosecutor or by the Attorney General, is not eligible for Amnesty. In addition, tax liabilities for tax returns due prior to January 1, 1987, and on or after January 1, 1996, are not eligible.

Is filing for Amnesty a complicated process? No, it's very easy. There are no applications to fill out and no appointments to make. You simply file and sign a Division Payments Waiver Statement and any appropriate tax return, and make all payments of tax liabilities on or before June 1, 1996.

The Division Payment/Waiver Statement is your acknowledgment that once you pay the tax you owe, you will no longer have the right to appeal.

What taxes are eligible for Amnesty? All taxes administered and collected by the New Jersey Division of Taxation are eligible for Amnesty. These include individual gross income taxes, corporate taxes, sales and use taxes and twenty-nine other taxes.

Cuts hurt

Continued from page 1

made a strong impact in providing service to new and established small businesses. Started in 1977 NSBDC not only helps their clients in obtaining loans, but also offers a variety of educational and business resources to counsel and train small business owners to deal with financing, marketing and managing their companies. According to a recent presentation by Brenda Hopper, state director of NSBDC, to the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee and Assembly Appropriations Committee, NSBDC created 9 percent of the 53,000 jobs created statewide in 1995. Hopper also stressed that by NSBDC assisting their clients' businesses who make a \$15.5 million state contribution and a \$36.9 million federal tax contribution, that they were adding the state.

"We have always seen the SBDC as an investment in the State of New Jersey," said Hopper. "We are not a handout program. We generate dollars that come to the State of New Jersey."

No timetable has been disclosed for eliminating the funding, according to Michael Rampart, director of the Division of Small Business and Women and Minority Owned Businesses (SWMB) in Trenton. Rampart said that it was a "judgment

DREAMS FOR SALE.

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HUD Homes are not available in all areas. Call a real estate agent for a current list of properties available. To qualified buyers, only on homes with FHA-insured financing. Closing costs and fees additional.

See CUTS HURT? page 8

OPINION

EDITORIAL

One strike, you're out

The problems of violence and drug-related crimes in fests all parts of life in our nation's inner cities, but no where is it more prevalent than within public housing. Tenants of these buildings live in fear of their lives, but now the ones that will have to worry are the ones doing the crimes.

In a directive recently signed by President Clinton, residents of any public housing facilities that harbor a criminal or do any crimes will learn a new meaning to the statement "If you do the crime, you must do the time."

By instituting this directive the President is sending a strong message to the criminals and families/friends of criminals: that for every action in life there is a reaction or consequence. And to further strengthen this new attack in the battle against crime, Housing Secretary Henry Cisneros plans to issue national guidelines for housing authorities to incorporate the policy through new tenant screenings and lease agreements.

While neither policy will totally eliminate the problems of violence and drug-related crimes within our communities and public housing facilities, they are long awaited signs for sore eyes. With them, there is hope that residents in these buildings may get a chance to feel at home instead of in a war zone.

Without the united efforts of the community, law officers and governmental officials the end to this plague on society is long-way off. For once the government is listening to the cries of despair from the people within the communities where these problems are so prevalent.

by Connie Woodruff



Montclair will have one of the more interesting mayor-council races this year. It is not surprising that Deputy Mayor Brian Scantlebury has decided to go for the top job. What is surprising is he's running independently of any candidates for At-Large or ward seats.

New attention has been focused on Brian since Christie Whittam became governor. He enjoys a close affiliation with the Whittam administration, particularly with Secretary of State Lorna Hooks, and others inside the State House enclave.

At least one familiar face will be missing in this year's council race. Fourth Ward Councilwoman Audrey Fletcher has decided not to run for another term.

Fletcher was a real firebrand on the council. When she spoke for or against a motion, there was never any doubt how she really felt about an issue. Voters always felt she had their interests uppermost no matter what the

issue. Her candor and honesty will be missed, as will her efforts in behalf of Montclair's minority community.

But rest assured there are others already stepping up to the plate.

On the Montclair 2000 ticket, Albertus Jenkins is running for an At-Large seat and our old Newark-Nutley and now Montclair friend, Robert Russo is running for re-election as a ward councilman.

Then there's the Montclair first ticket featuring Deborah Jennings as the candidate for mayor with a team that includes Carolyn Nunery, a member of the board of education as a ward candidate.

Jennings and Nunery are expected to draw heavily from business and professional women's groups, sororities and fraternities with whom both women and their spouses are affiliated.

Orange Mayor Bob Brown is sure the voters will give him a third term and his opponent, Councilman Mims Hackett is equally sure voters believe it's time for a change.

In Irvington it's a three-way fight for the Council-At-Large seat left va-

cant when Pat McNally won the council clerk job last November.

One of the three candidates is Wayne Smith, a popular leader with young voters around town. Wayne, a former city administrator is now in private practice as a business consultant.

Essex Girl Scout leader Marilyn Thomas is seriously challenging East Ward Councilman David Gregory and in the South Ward Councilwoman Lebbey Jones, elected in 1994 to fill an unexpired two-year term, is seeking a full four-year term. Her challenger is Donald Monah.

Arthur Hooper, principal of Alexander Street School in Newark is a patient at Kessler Institute, West Orange.

There is also a report Newark Councilman-At-Large Donald Tucker is recuperating after emergency treatment at a hospital.

As things begin to heat up in East Orange more and more voters are concentrating and speculating about who will be the next mayor.

This leads to all kinds of wild rumors making the rounds about who does or does not live in the city and who does and does not have shel-

lons in the closet.

I can't believe the two names run past me this week: Charles Gaines and Quilla Thomas? For mayor?

In Essex County's black communities the two prevailing forces change are politics and religion.

Last week Messiah Baptist Church in East Orange celebrated Annual Missionary Day hosting members of the New England Missionaries Auxiliary.

Rev. Harry Batts, pastor and Ms. Bernice Sanders, president of Messiah missionaries, welcomed several hundred worshippers from local state churches and the special guests from the Alden Street Baptist Church, Springfield, MS.

Guest speaker was Dr. Elsie Coffield who founded the group at Messiah 12 years ago. She was accompanied by members of the Alden St. choir as well as other church dignitaries, led by her husband, the Rev. Dr. Coffield, church pastor.

Tributes and gifts to mark the occasion were presented to Mrs. Katie Randolph, the oldest member of Messiah, Mrs. Elanie Cary, a life long member and Mrs. Madeline Bristol and the Garden State Choir.

Letters to the Editor

Help preserve a piece of history

Dear editor:

I recently attended a seminar on a historical building in Lawnside New Jersey. This building has been in existence since 1800, and now it might be in danger of being demolished.

It would be a tragedy if this piece of history is not saved. It offers a significant amount of history and I believe it is listed in the Historical Society.

I am not a historian, but I am interested in African-American culture and anything to help our children. I am interested in forming some type of fund-raiser in Northern NJ to save the building. There are six other people who are willing to join me in this effort. Anyone interested in helping us preserve a piece of our history can contact me at The Lawnside Historical Society, Inc. P.O. Box 608 Lawnside, NJ 08043-0608.

Linda Waller

President, Lawnside Historical Society

A sincere thank you

Dear Editor:

We want to thank the 18,000 volunteers across New Jersey who took part in the American Diabetes Association Neighborhood Check for Diabetes, recently. The Neighborhood Check program reached 360,000 homes statewide with the Diabetes Risk Test, a simple educational tool to let people know whether they are at risk for diabetes. Thanks to the efforts of these volunteers, the Neighborhood Check program also raised more than \$240,000 dollars to support American Diabetes Association research and education programs.

There are an estimated half million people in New Jersey with diabetes and half of them may not know it until they suffer one of its complications such as blindness, kidney failure, heart disease, stroke or amputation. The American Diabetes Association will reach out to people in every corner of the Garden State this year with vital information about diabetes risk, management, education and research. All Americans are urged to learn the warning signs of diabetes - a serious, chronic disease that claims 169,000 lives nationally each year.

We urge you to call the American Diabetes Association at 1-800-DIABETES to receive a free copy of the written Diabetes Risk Test. Thanks again to our dedicated volunteers as we continue our efforts to find a cure for diabetes.

Patricia J. Baria, MPH, RN, CDE

President American Diabetes Association New Jersey Affiliate, Inc.

THE PASTOR'S WORD

It's more than just marching

by Rev. Reginald T. Jackson

On May 6th the New Jersey Million Man March Coalition along with the Black Ministers Council and other organizations will sponsor a "March to Trenton." The theme for the march is "Family, Community, People United for Progress."

Last week I received a letter from someone in one of the labor unions who stated her opposition to the march. It was a well written, well thought out letter. The gist of the letter was that we had a Million Man March to Washington in October that made us feel good, that led us to atone to God and each other and put black men in a positive light, at least for a while.

She contended that we don't need another march to make us feel good, I need

take off another day just to talk about issues and come home with nothing accomplished. Additionally she added that we have too many issues, like welfare reform, spending cuts, privatization and others to deal with rather than marching, being seen but accomplishing nothing.

This good sister articulated what many blacks feel, "that we have to do more than just march." Marching is now obsolete and ineffective. It's a thing of the past. The good sister advocates blacks joining together with other groups like labor, the League of Women Voters and others to effect a change.

The good sister's argument was good and I genuinely appreciate her concerns, because they are very legitimate and should be taken seriously. However the premise of her argument is flawed. And that is, that blacks have "just marched."

When have we "just marched?" These "just marches" have played a significant role in our progress in this country. It was the March on Washington in 1963 that got us the attention of the nation and led to the passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

It was the March to Selma, the March to Montgomery and other marches that led to voting rights, open housing and other achievements. And even those who say marches are irrelevant and a thing of the past, need to take another look at the Million Man March of last October.

That march too captured the attention of the nation, frightened the powers that be and still has a momentum that is being felt in many communities around the nation. Blacks have always done more than "just march."



by Askia Muhammad

I would like to paraphrase the adage that "Youth is wasted on the young." To say "Wealth is wasted on the rich." And it is the same way I find raised similar questions 10 years ago. I again question the loyalty and the patriotism of the rich of America who rake this country (and the world) like it is their own personal fiefdom.

Back in 1986 - when Ronald Reagan was President and Patrick Buchanan was a supply side economics policy maker and White House speech writer, promising that wealth would trickle down from the obvious beneficiaries of Mr. Reagan's policies.

He said, "The policy of the day of us - an Episcopal pastor named Roth began to publicly challenge the big corporations which increasingly saw it to relocate their factories overseas. The Rev. Roth, who sits from the steel-mill town of Johnstown in PA, near Pittsburgh, called the corporate decision makers "un-American," which I thought to be the most creative use of that term I had ever heard. He argued that companies have a patriotic duty to be loyal to their workers, whose sacrifices make them rich, before they succumb to the pervasive "bottom line

Today, Mr. Buchanan has now discovered the notion of "corporate responsibility," and in his appeal for blue-collar support from union-jointing White workers (so-called "Reagan Democrats") he sounds like a down-right populist, instead of like the narrow, xenophobic, racist I think he really is.

Now, in a strange bit of role reversal, President Bill Clinton's economic advisers have been criticizing a speech delivered in February by Labor Secretary Robert Reich suggesting tax incentives to promote good corporate citizenship, while Mr. Buchanan ("Mr. Look and Listen") talks freely about forcing the Republican political establishment to align itself with American workers.

While Mr. Clinton plans an April

"corporate citizenship" conference, his advisers don't want him to antagonize the business community in an effort to highlight corporations that do right by their workers.

For his part, Mr. Buchanan wants the Republican Party's 1996 Platform to pledge an end to "trade deals that sell out American jobs," and a guarantee of "a living wage" so workers he says who have been victimized by greedy corporate bosses, can support their families on one, not two salaries.

Me, I want an outraged, but enlightened citizenry to become precision consumers. When companies downsize and simultaneously export American jobs overseas, I believe consumers should pay those companies back at the cash register. I believe

workers, whose \$4 trillion in pension funds make up the largest block of wealth floating around the world stock exchanges, should insist that their pension fund managers leverage their stock holdings, by rewarding the corporate bosses who made those antipatriotic decisions with a quick introduction to the American unemployment system.

Instead of requiring poor average citizens to bear the brunt of the so-called "Buy American" campaigns, let's hold the wealthy accountable to the same standards. It should be a matter of grave concern, for example, if reports are true that Mr. Buchanan drives a Mercedes Benz automobile, rather than a car manufactured in the

300 CORPORATE PATRIOTISM page 10

City News Publishing Company

&



announce the

City News 100 Most Influential

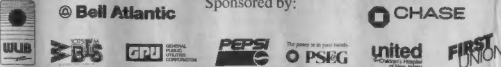
Who are The 100 Most Influential in New Jersey?

- Individuals who contribute significantly to the progress of black people in the state of New Jersey
- Individuals who use their success to uplift the black communities of New Jersey
- Individuals who use their positions to promote good corporate citizenship
- Individuals who selflessly do extraordinary community service
- Individuals who not only understand the critical importance of rebuilding New Jersey's urban communities, but also commit significant time and resources to urban revitalization

May 2, 1996



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YOUTHBEAT

Kids' Calendar

THURSDAY, APRIL 18
JERSEY CITY—Spanish Enrichment for Children, a ten-part Saturday course at JCSC for children of Hispanic heritage in grades K thru six. For more info call 201-200-3089.

APRIL 21-THURSDAY
NEW BRUNSWICK—Sesame Street Live: When I Grow Up at the State Theatre. For tickets call 908-246-7469.

SATURDAY, APRIL 6
East Orange—Annual Easter Egg Hunt held at East Orange Recreation Department at 11:00 a.m. For more info call 201-414-4141.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10
LONG BRANCH—Morning Delights by the Sea, 10-11:30 a.m. 7 Presenters. Oceanfront Park. Monmouth County Park Systems. For more info call 908-842-4000 ext. 237.

SATURDAY, APRIL 13
COLUMBIAN—Monmouth County Park Systems presents Teddy in the Woods' program for youngsters ages 5-7 to be held at the Holmdel Park Activity Center. For more info call 908-842-4000 ext. 237.

HOLMDEL—Monmouth County Park Systems presents Teddy in the Woods' program for youngsters ages 5-7 to be held at the Holmdel Park Activity Center. For more info call 908-842-4000 ext. 237.

MIDDLETOWN—Monmouth County Park Systems presents "Feathered Flights of Fantasy" at the Huber Woods Environmental Center. For more info call 908-842-4000 ext. 237.

APRIL 13-14
MILLBURN—Theater IV ages 5-10 11:00 a.m. Paper Mill Playhouse. For tickets call 201-370-6343.

NEW YORK—Come celebrate with Sesame Street for its 100th anniversary! 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day. Live entertainment, horseshoe crab storytelling, talk with penguin models and create deep-sea bathysphere fun fact cards. For more info call the aquarium at 718-265-FISH.

APRIL 13 & 20
JERSEY CITY—JCSC offers a review course for the SAT through its Saturday course from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. For more info call 201-200-3089.

SUNDAY, APRIL 14
MORRISTOWN—Morristown Board School invites you to an Open House beginning at 1 p.m. for middle school students and 2:15 for upper class students. For more info call the school at 201-339-3032, ext. 540.

THURSDAY, APRIL 18
NEWARK—Newark Health and Human Services presents "Punch and Judy" Puppet Presentation Puppet Show for preschoolers at the Felix Fuld Day Care Center. For more info call 201-733-3889.

Calendar listings should be sent two weeks in advance to ensure publication

Newark students get a feel for international business

NEWARK—Newark Public Schools' secondary students recently had the opportunity of "Competing in the Global Market" when they attended the National and International Minority Business Conference and Exposition, held March 26 to 28, at the Meadowlands Hilton, in Secaucus.

The conference entitled "Opening a World of Opportunity: For Minority and Women-Owned Business," featured representatives from national and international companies. The keynote address was delivered by Secretary of Commerce Ron Brown.

Students met with international business representatives and were briefed on international trade, international procurement and financing opportunities, foreign trade and entrepreneurship.

According to Roger Hinton, founder of the International Minority Business Corporation, the organization plans to support Newark's students and introduce them to methods of "painful employment."

"This initiative allows the stu-

dents to receive current information about business opportunities and to meet with key executives from private, federal and state trade agencies," Hinton added.

The conference also included an "Ambassadors' Roundtable" session where students met with representatives from China, India, Papua New Guinea, South Africa, Brazil and Argentina and got pertinent information about emerging markets in the Pacific realm and southern hemisphere.

NJPAC dance academy begins second year

More than 1,200 students throughout New Jersey are currently receiving in-school dance instruction as part of New Jersey Performing Arts Center's (NJ-PAC) Dance Academy.

Sponsored again this year by AT&T, the program has been expanded to include 18 schools in four New Jersey counties and runs through mid-May.

In cooperation with the Alvin Ailey American Dance Center (AAADC), third-grade students will receive 10 weeks of high quality dance instruction by professional dance instructors. For two hours each week, students in Plainfield, Montgomery Township, Verona, Irvington, Orange, East Orange, Paterson and Newark will explore a variety of dance techniques, including ballet, tap, modern and African dance.



Students in the NJ-PAC Dance Academy program are shown in a dance pose during a class session.

Participating schools are: Chancellor Avenue School, Irvington; Central Elementary and Cleveland Elementary, in Orange; C.H. Sullivan and Washington Schools, in Plainfield; Burnt Hill Road School, in Montgomery Township; Franklin Lin, in East Orange; Schools Number 15 and Number 26 and Martin Luther King, Jr. School, in Paterson; Forest Avenue School and Brookdale Avenue School, in Verona; St. Philip's Academy, in Newark; and Miller Street School, Peshine Elementary, Lafayette Street School, Rafael Hernandez School and Roberto Clemente School, in Newark.

In May, NJ-PAC will present Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater for three performances at Newark Symphony Hall, one min-performance for the students and two public performances for the general public including a Gala Reception and benefit.

Tryouts underway for U.S. Youth Games

NEWARK—The Newark Division of Recreation and Cultural Affairs announced that tryouts will be held for the delegation which will represent Newark at this year's Youth Games competition. The games will be held in Puerto Rico from August 7 to 11.

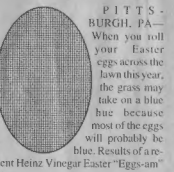
All Newark students between the ages of 9 and 15 are eligible for tryouts. Participants will compete against youngsters from 18 major metropolitan areas in Boys and Girls Basketball, Bowling, Tennis, Track and Field, Swimming and Volleyball.

Tryout schedule is:
Boys' Basketball: April 13 and 27; May 4, 11, 18 and 25, 10 a.m. at JFK Recreation Center.
Girls' Basketball: April 13, 20 and 27; May 4, 11, 18 and 25, 10 a.m. at JFK.

Co-ed Bowling: April 13, 20 and 27; May 4, 11, 18 and 25, 10 a.m. and noon at Garden State Bowling Center.
Co-ed Tennis: April 13, 20 and 27; May 4, 11, 18 and 25, noon at the Jesse Allen Park.
Co-ed Volleyball: April 13, 20 and 27; May 4, 11, 18 and 25, 10 a.m. at the YMCA.
Co-ed Swimming: April 13, 20 and 27; May 4, 11, 18 and 25, 10 a.m. at JFK.

Boys' and Girls' Track and Field tryouts will be held at Ostermann Field. Dates and times will be announced.

What's your favorite Easter egg color?



Sappy egg hunting

revealed that 43 percent of people prefer dyeing their eggs blue.

Trailing blue in New York's Easter egg color "hierarchy" are purple (19 percent), pink (9 percent), yellow (8 percent), red (7 percent) and green (6 percent).

So when you start dyeing those eggs for the holiday, to achieve rich colors and to keep the eggs from cracking add two tablespoons of Vinegar to each quart of boiling water. Happy egg-trails.

This Week in Black History

APRIL 3
1934—Landscape artist Richard Mayhew is born in Antiochville, NY.
1959—Carter G. Woodson, historian and founder of "Negro History Week," dies.
1961—Comedian/Actor Eddie Murphy is born in Brooklyn, NY.
1963—Led by Martin Luther King, Jr., the Birmingham anti-segregation campaign begins.
1964—Malcolm X speaks at a CORE sponsored meeting on "The Negro Role—What Comes Next?" in his speech of a growing nationalism that will no longer tolerate patronizing white political action.
1984—John Thompson of the Georgetown Hoyas basketball team coaches the Patrick Ewing-led team to an NCAA championship. It is a first for an African-American coach.



Malcolm X

under the pen name "Rollin." Thomas Morris Chester describes the Union Army's triumphant entry into the city of Richmond, VA. He is the only African-American newspaperman writing for a mainstream, and there was another for almost 70 years.
1959—Matthew Henson, accompanying Commander Robert Peary, discovers the North Pole.
1937—Actress Billy Dee Williams is born in Harlem.
1953—Life magazine names Minister Howard Thurman one of the greatest 20th century preachers.
1971—Contemporary Black Artists in America opens at the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York City.

APRIL 7
1712—Slave riots in New York City result in the death of eight whites. Twenty-five slaves died for their part in the riot.
1867—Johnson C. Smith University is founded in Charlotte, NC.
1872—Boston Guardian editor William Moore Toyner is born near Chillicothe, OH.
1915—Jazz and blues singer Ella Fitzgerald is born in New York City.
1968—Martin Luther King, Jr. is assassinated in Memphis, TN.
1938—Trumpeter Frederick Dewdney Hubbard is born in Indianapolis, IN.

APRIL 8
1940—The first U.S. stamp to honor an African-American is issued bearing the face of Booker T. Washington.
1959—Lorraine Hansberry is the first African-American playwright to win a New York Drama Critics Award for "A Raisin in the Sun."
1975—Frank Robinson is named manager of Cleveland Indians baseball team.



Billy Holiday

APRIL 5
1839—Civil War hero Robert Smalls is born in slavery in Beaufort, SC.
1856—Educator and founder of Tuskegee Institute Booker T. Washington is born in Hale's Ford, VA.
1910—The first African-American professional player Charles W. Follis is born in Charlottesville, VA.
1937—Colin Powell, army officer and first African-American Chief of Staff for the Armed Forces, is born in New York City.
1958—Booker T. Washington becomes the only African American twice on a U.S. postage stamp.
1984—LA Laker Kareem Abdul-Jabbar breaks Walt Chamberlain's record and becomes all-time scoring leader in the NBA.
1990—Seven African-American journalists are inducted into the newly created Hall of Fame of the National Association of Black Journalists in Washington, DC.

APRIL 6
1798—Noel Scott James P. Beckwith is born in Frederickburg, VA.
1830—James A. Healy, first African-American Catholic Bishop is born.
1865—Writing in the Philadelphia Press

Responses to YES black history issue

In the February issue of YES magazine students asked the question "Would African-Americans survive without civil rights?" Here are a few responses from students in 6th, 7th and 8th grade special education at Rolland Middle School in Trenton, NJ.

Dear YES,
 No, the world would not survive without civil rights. If blacks did not have civil rights some of the black communities would be as bad as it was back in the day. In the 90's blacks are not able to get jobs because they are on a dinner either selling or doing drugs for money that they can put to good use. If we did not have civil rights the world would be in trouble. If we had more black men like Dr. King trying to become something the community would not be as bad as it is.

Oliver Wright

Dear YES,
 I think African-Americans would not survive without civil rights. Some people would kill themselves or kill a white person and go to jail. African-Americans are not going to survive because of the way they see it, white people are going to look and say they do not have Dr. King to fight for them any more. African-Americans are not going to survive without civil rights because too many babies are growing up with parents who can't explain to them what civil rights mean. As an African-American, I will be put down and told I cannot be a lawyer. They will try to blow my dreams away, but in my heart I know I will be a good lawyer.

Leslie Love

Dear YES,
 No this world would not survive because some African-Americans would not get a job. There are too many African-Americans doing bad things. There are some white people who hate African-Americans. There are more blacks in jail than white people. There are some African-Americans not going to school. We should fight for our rights as American citizens.

Bryant Rogers

Dear YES,
 No, African-Americans would not survive. We will have to go to the back of the bus. There are too many African-Americans who will not go to school. We will have to fight for their rights. The African-Americans will not go to school we will be working in the hot, hot sun.

Arkeyeo Beal

Dear YES,
 I think African-American people would not have a place to live. Black people would still be slaves. We would not have people to vote for President. We would not have schools to go to. Black people would not have any money to get food.

Jason Rue

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE () _____

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LIFESTYLE S

Religious Calendar

FRIDAY, APRIL 5

PLAINFIELD—Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church's 23rd annual Benefit Concert for Muhlenberg Regional Medical center featuring the Ontario Choir. For tickets call 908-756-4919.

SATURDAY, APRIL 6

BLOOMFIELD—The Brookdale Baptist Church presents The Melbourne Star Band of The Salvation Army. For more info call 908-851-8228.

SUNDAY, APRIL 7

PLAINFIELD—Pre-service concert at the Crescent Ave. Presbyterian Church at 10:30 a.m.

SUNDAY, APRIL 14

NEWARK—The Newark Branch NAACP invites you to a Gospel Extravaganza "A Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr." at the Hopewell Baptist Church, 17 Muhammad Ali Ave. 4 p.m. For more info call 908-624-6400.

NEPTUNE—"An Evening to Celebrate" featuring the KISS FM Gospel Choir and Youth United for Christ Mass Choir at Martin Luther King Presbyterian Church 15 Memorial Dr. show time 6:30 p.m. For more info call 908-918-1195 or 908-517-2652.

Calendar listings should be sent two weeks in advance to ensure publication

Free tax assistance

PLAINFIELD—The Plainfield Senior Citizen Center, is hosting free income tax assistance, with appointments available Monday to Wednesday and Friday at the Center at 305 E. Front St., the Black United Fund Center on W. 7th St. and the Plainfield Library.

To be assisted bring all income information—W-2 and 1099 forms, receipts for deductions such as medical and charity; if you are a homeowner, bring your Real Estate tax receipt or a copy of it and any other tax receipts. Appointments must be made by calling the Senior Citizen Center. For additional information call 753-3506.

AZT shown to lower risk of transmitting HIV to infants

WASHINGTON, DC—Each year, approximately 1,000 infants are born to women with the Human Immunodeficiency Virus, or HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.

As many as 2,000 of these infants will acquire the virus during pregnancy, childbirth or after birth through breastfeeding.

HIV/AIDS is now the seventh leading cause of death in children 1 to 4 years of age. Until recently, strategies for reducing the transmission of HIV from mother to child focused on preventing HIV infection among women or, for women who are already infected, avoiding pregnancy and refraining from breastfeeding.

The results of a National Institutes of Health clinical trial known as the AIDS Clinical Trial Group (ACTG) 076, that followed pregnant women with HIV, showed that using the antiretroviral drug "zidovudine," commonly known as "azidothymidine" or AZT, reduced the rate of perinatal transmission of HIV by two-thirds.

The women in the study either

were given AZT, or a placebo, beginning between 14 and 34 weeks gestation and continuing for the remainder of the pregnancy and delivery.

For the first six weeks of life, AZT was also given to the babies of the women who received the drug. For children of women who did take AZT, the rate of perinatal transmission fell from one in four to one in 12.

"It is vital to get this information, along with what we know about the risks and benefits of AZT use during pregnancy, into the hands of as many pregnant women with HIV as possible," said Health and Human Services Assistant Secretary for Health Philip R. Lee, M.D.

Lee recently announced a new public information campaign to help pregnant women who have HIV make informed decisions about medical interventions that may reduce mother-to-child transmission of the virus.

The campaign features a consumer brochure, posters, flyers, videotape, audiotape and public service announcements in English and Spanish.

The brochure also is available in Haitian Creole. Pamphlet material is presented in a straightforward and objective manner, to help women weigh the risks and benefits of AZT therapy during pregnancy.

The campaign materials, developed by HHS and the Columbia University School of Public Health, primarily will be distributed through federally-funded facilities such as clinics and community health centers. One project underway is being led by the Health Care Financing Administration which administers the largest federal

health programs, Medicare and Medicaid.

It will initially target four states—Delaware, Florida, New Jersey, and Rhode Island—because of their high percentage of Medicaid beneficiaries and high rates of HIV-infection among women of childbearing age.

According to Velvet G. Miller, Director of Medical Assistance and Health Services (Medicaid) for New Jersey, 90 percent of the children that receive health services and are affected with HIV or have AIDS are served through the Medicaid program.

"We intend to work with all of the

relevant providers in getting the information out to the key people that we serve," Miller said.

General information on the campaign can be obtained by calling the HIV/AIDS Treatment Information Service (ATIS), toll free, at 1-800-448-0440 or 1-800-243-1012 (TTY service for the deaf).

"We encourage pregnant women who have HIV to get early prenatal care, talk to a health care provider, and get facts about AZT," said Lee, adding, "ultimately, it is up to the woman to make an informed decision about what is best for herself and her baby."

Research to study heart attack prevention treatment

NEW YORK—Antihypertensive and Lipid-Lowering Treatment to Prevent Heart Attack Trial (ALLHAT), a nationwide high blood pressure and high cholesterol research program, is looking for additional clinical sites and participants in the New York metropolitan area.

The program plans to enroll 40,000 participants, all over 55 years of age—

(55 percent African-Americans).

Sponsored by the National Institutes of Health's National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, ALLHAT is designed to test whether different types of new blood pressure-lowering medicines are better at reducing the risk of heart attack than older, previously tested treatment.

All the drugs being used in the

study are in general used to treat hypertension. In a sub-group of patients with high cholesterol levels, specific treatment with a Lipid-Lowering medication, will be compared with lifestyle modification, such as diet and exercise.

African Americans are disproportionately at risk of hypertension and

See HEART ATTACK/ page 10



It's
Time
to
Talk

...to your children

AIDS is 100% Preventable!

For information and Services, call Planned Parenthood at 756-3765

Newark gears up for Earth Day '96

NEWARK—Newark will once again be the backdrop for one of the largest Earth Day events in the state. Hosted by the Greater Newark Conservancy, Essex County Parks System and the City of Newark, Earth Day '96 will be held on Saturday,

April 20, in Branch Brook Park.

Nearly 10,000 visitors are expected to converge on Branch Brook Park in Newark to celebrate the 26th anniversary of Earth Day at this year's extravaganza.

Held in conjunction with the an-

nual Cherry Blossom Festival at Branch Brook Park, this year's Earth Day celebration, scheduled to run from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., will once again feature a children's stage of activities, musical entertainment, environmental exhibitions and food vendors, as well as an assortment of environmental activities and information.

In addition, this year's Earth Day youth project will feature Newark students completing a public education section in the park. The project will educate the public about habitat enhancement through planting native species of plants, trees and shrubs to improve the environment for urban wildlife, with an emphasis on supporting migratory songbirds in Branch Brook Park. The project is completely steered by students.

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MILLBURN:

240 Millburn Avenue

LONG BRANCH:

189 Broadway

MILLBURN:

240 Millburn Avenue

IRVINGTON:

1231 Springfield Avenue

LIVINGSTON:

455 South Livingston Avenue

LONG BRANCH:

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MILLBURN:

240 Millburn Avenue

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ATTENTION

residents of
Monmouth County



THE MONMOUTH COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS HAS CREATED A FAIR HOUSING OFFICE AND APPOINTED A FAIR HOUSING BOARD

The Monmouth County Fair Housing Board has been established by the Board of Chosen Freeholders to provide policy and guidance on compliance with State and Federal fair housing laws and regulations to protect the rights of all Monmouth County residents. The Fair Housing Office will provide the following services:

1. Coordination of a county-wide approach to ensure fair housing for residents.
2. Establishment of an intake and screening procedure for discrimination complaints. Services will include assistance and counseling on procedures for filing a complaint, help in completing the complaint form, and review and verification process.
3. Provide general information and assistance on housing problems, and when necessary refer clients to other agencies that are funded and staffed to handle a specific housing problem, including referral to the New Jersey Department of Civil Rights.
4. Education, training and technical assistance to individuals, groups, agencies and/or organizations.
5. Acquire and coordinate assistance of New Jersey Division of Civil Rights, and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for verification of discrimination practices and negotiating settlement for fair housing problems.

The office will provide service and assistance to the general public however, we have targeted the following groups as our highest priority:

MINORITIES, HANDICAPPED, HOMELESS, SENIOR CITIZENS, FAIR HOUSING GROUPS, CONCERNED HOME/APARTMENT LEASE GROUPS, HOMEBUILDERS, REALTORS, LENDING INSTITUTIONS, AND MUNICIPALITIES

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ENTERTAINMENT

Bill Board

THRU APRIL 30
MAHWAH—Conjure Women will air on the Public Broadcasting System (PBS). For programming info call 201-529-7423.

NEWARK—"Africanu the King," written by Kabu Okai-Davies at the African Globe Studio.

APRIL 1-8
NEW YORK—Junior Manzo, Calvin Hill, & Joe Temperley at the ZINNO Bar & Restaurant. For more info call 212-924-5182.

SATURDAY, APRIL 6
Sweet Sixteen Anniversary Parties Hilton at Short Hills for info call 908-462-2406.

PRINCETON—Dance Party at the Forrestal at Princeton (formerly The Santicone). For more info call 908-462-2406.

THRU APRIL 7
NEW BRUNSWICK—Fear Isself at Crossroads Theatre. For info call 908-249-5560.

WOODBRIDGE—Dance Party at the Woodbridge Hilton. For more info call 908-462-2406.

HALEDON—Easter Fashion & Talent Showcase at the New LaNaves. For more info call 201-794-4777.

APRIL 8-13
John Bunch, Jay Leonhart, & Bucky Pizzarelli at the ZINNO Bar & Restaurant. For more info call 212-924-5182.

TUESDAY, APRIL 9
NEW YORK—Dinner & Ives, Printmakers to American People. Highlights from the Collections of the Museum of the City of New York. For more info call 212-534-1672 ext. 212.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10
NEW YORK—Jimmy Tickney & the Drivers at Manny's Car Wash. For more info call (212) 369-1758.

THURSDAY, APRIL 11
NEW YORK—Jazz on Film: "Tenors on Top" at the Lincoln Center. For more info call (212) 721-6500.

Calendar listings should be sent two weeks in advance to ensure publication

Hansen's Harlem...on display at the Schomburg Center



Above, two of the many photos featured in Hansen's Harlem.

HARLEM, NY—The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture is hosting a photographic exhibition entitled "Hansen's Harlem: A Commemorative Exhibition," in celebration of the life and legacy of one of Harlem's premier photojournalists and studio photographers, Austin Victor Hansen (1910-1990).

The exhibition opened on March 10 and will be on view at the Schomburg Center until April 28.

"Hansen's Harlem" covers the period of the 1940s to the 1980s and includes photos of a Harlem cotillion,

a meeting between Malcolm X and Adam Clayton Powell Jr., a Joe Louis Day Parade and many more. The collection distinguishes itself as one of the most complete photographic records of Harlem in existence.

Exhibition hours for "Hansen's Harlem" are Monday through Wednesday, noon to 8 p.m.; Thursday through Sunday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Sundays at 1 to 5 p.m.

For tour information call 212-491-2265. The Schomburg Center is located at 515 Malcolm X Boulevard at 135th Street and Lenox Ave.



NORTH BERGEN—CHOICE, Jersey City's bad boys of Acappella will celebrate their new CD/album release with a party at BIAGIO restaurant and bar 2000 Rt. 1&9 N. in North Bergen on Wednesday, April 3. The group was originally formed in Jersey City in 1981 and has since received much attention in performances at the Nassau Coliseum, Brendan Byrne Arena and Radio City Music Hall. Showtimes are at 8:30 and 9:30 p.m. sharp. Admission is \$7. For more information call 201-365-0049.

Visit Historic Auburn

AUBURN, NY—The Lawnside Historical Society is sponsoring a trip to Historic Auburn, New York on June 15 to 16. The trip includes transportation, hotel accommodation, one dinner and breakfast and all taxes and gratuities.

The tour will feature the Harriet

Tubman House, Seward House, Freedom Park, Watkins Glen and Corning Glass.

A fee of \$150 per person is required, with a \$50 deposit due by April 12, and the \$100 balance on May 10. For additional information call 609-547-8489.

A Raisin In The Sun airs on ABC



A Raisin in the Sun, airing through The African Heritage Movie Network on WABC, Sunday, April 7 at 11:30 p.m., stars Claudia McNeil (I) as Lena Younger, a widowed mother who struggles for a decent home and a better life for her family and Sidney Poitier (I) as Walter Lee, her son, who dreams of becoming a man—in American terms—by starting a business. *Raisins* also features AHH co-host, Ruby Dee in an electrifying performance as Ruth, Walter Lee's wife.

'96 auto show at Jacob Javits Center

MANHATTAN—The showcase of more than 1000 cars and trucks on display at the 1996 New York International Auto Show this month will be highlighted by at least nine vehicles that will be making their worldwide debuts. Chevrolet, Pontiac, Oldsmobile, Jaguar, Subaru, Land Rover, and Mazda all plan to make dramatic unveilings of their latest offerings.

The show will be held from Saturday, April 6 through Sunday April 14 at the Jacob Javits Convention Center. Showtimes will be Sundays, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Monday to Saturday at 11 a.m. to 10:30 p.m.

Admission is \$8 for adults and \$2 for children under 12 years of age. Tickets will be available at the door or by calling Ticketmaster at 212-307-7171.



NEWARK—On Wednesday, April 3, The Newark Museum opens the exhibition, *Ceramic Gestures: New Vessels by Magdalene Odundo*. The show, which will run through June 30, highlights the internationally acclaimed work of Kenyan-born, London-based Odundo in her premier solo museum exhibition in America. Odundo, who is recognized for her unique and exquisite work, has created fifteen new ceramic pieces expressly for this exhibition. Pictured above Odundo at work on one of her creations.

National poetry contest

OWINGS MILLS, MD—The National Library of Poetry has announced that \$24,000 in prizes will be awarded this year to over 250 poets in the North American Open Poetry Contest. The contest is open to everyone and entry is free.

All poets whether previously published or not, can be a winner. Every poem entered also has a chance to be published in a deluxe, hardbound anthology. To enter, send one original poem: any subject and any style, to The National Library of Poetry, 11419 Cronridge Dr., P.O. Box 704-1987, Owings Mills, MD 21117. Poems should be no more than 20 lines, and the poet's name and address should appear on the top of the page. Entries must be postmarked by April 15, 1996. A new contest opens April 16.

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555 years in captivity Working to abolish a sin

by Kelly Howard

From the 1830s to the Civil War, America saw a new energy directed toward freeing slaves. Abolitionists, were a new crop of intense, strong-willed, moral idealists who saw slavery as an evil that had to be eradicated in order for America to fulfill its promise of "liberty and justice for all."

In pamphlets and speeches, they depicted slavery as a serpent: a cunning, cold-blooded, slimy reptile, with its body curled around the country, strangling it. Like the legendary saints who killed dragons, they pictured themselves beheading the snake of slavery.

When the abolitionists arrived on the national scene, they overshadowed the old antislavery movement that had been founded in the eighteenth century, mostly by Quakers. In

the 1830s and 1840s, they realized that slavery was not disappearing; rather, it was entrenched and just waiting to expand.

While history books teach of the many white leaders of the movement, many talented blacks played their part in this important battle. Some of them, such as William Wells Brown and Frederick Douglass, had been slaves. While many others, such as Robert Purvis, the Luca family, and Lewis and Harriet Hayden came from the North's free black communities.

Women also played a key role in the abolitionist cause. Prominent black women were especially engaged, including Frances Ellen Watkins, Sarah Parker Remond and Sojourner Truth. Sojourner Truth's speeches and songs added a revolutionary fervor to the fight for freedom.

Abolitionism was a significant movement, but by itself it could not

undo slavery. In fact, the abolitionists confronted much opposition—even in their own backyard, the North—from people who were pro-slavery, or anti-black. In-movement fighting and divisiveness also created cracks and fissures in the already tense situation.

While abolitionism could not end the sinful institution, it did accomplish three important things:

First, it kept the moral ugliness of slavery before the public.

Second, the movement intensified the sectional division of the country—the South versus the free North—that laid the groundwork for the Civil War.

Lastly, the movement gave the nation its first model of interracial and male-female cooperation on a wide scale. It also directly and indirectly served as an example for the civil rights movement more than a century later.

Sweeney tackles problems

enforcement of the Tenants' Lease Agreement. Coupled with collecting delinquent rent payments, Sweeney hopes to have a more effective resident screening process.

Noting the problems with drug dealers, stench and littered hallways and lottering, the new director said a

better screening process will help determine who will occupy public housing units.

"I do feel that if you create a better environment for people they would start living better. Tenants would live up to the standards that are around them," she said.

Continued from page 4

However, she stated that the Authority also bear a responsibility of making sure that improvements beyond the tenants control are dealt with. Notably sewage, drainage systems, landscaping etc.

"If you have that upgraded people are going to live in an upgraded manner."

Auto insurance

Continued from page 6

to take this plan and redo it so urban residents end up paying less for auto insurance instead of the 50 percent surcharges they'll end up with if this misguided manifesto goes through," Senator Rice added.

The Senator suggested that the Whitman Administration begin by taking a look at his bill, S-184, requiring insurers to provide the Department of Insurance with information based on property and casualty insurance; residential properties and small businesses in cities such as Newark; private mortgage insurers; insurers making investments in commercial and residential property; and insurers issuing performance and payment bonds.

Corporate patriotism

Continued from page 4

Consumer advocate Ralph Nader was correct when he challenged Pres. Clinton's nominees to the Federal Reserve Board recently, over their level of comfort with 5.5 percent unemployment, "we're about at the fullest employment that this economy, given its potential, can obtain."

Mr. Clinton's Director of the Office of Management and Budget, and a nominee for the Federal Reserve, Alice Rivlin, told her Senate confirmation hearing.

Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan, nominated for his third term as chairman, and St. Louis econo-

mist Laurence Meyer agreed with Ms. Rivlin that the control of inflation is the Federal Reserve's main concern, and not full employment.

Which makes me wonder, what ever happened to the Hawkins-Humphrey Full Employment Act? When that piece of legislation was signed making it "the law of the land," the Federal Government was supposed to bring unemployment down to 3 percent, half of its current level.

Like so many other convenient memory lapses that affect the American body-politic, that's one "law and order" item that rich folks can "afford" to be "un-patriotic" about.

Working to abolish a sin

1832 to 1839

1832-The New England Anti-Slavery Society is formed.

1833-The American Anti-Slavery Society is organized in Philadelphia by William Lloyd Garrison, Robert Purvis, George B. Vashon, and other abolitionists.

1834-Parliament abolishes slavery within the British Empire, freeing over 700,000 people. This act increases the moral pressure on Americans to abolish slavery.

1835-In a message to Congress, President Andrew Jackson, a southerner, calls for restrictions on abolitionist literature sent through the mail. Amos Dresser, an African-American abolitionist from Ohio arrested for passing out antislavery literature in Nashville. He is tried, beaten and driven from the city.

1836-Congress passes the infamous "gag rule," which prohibits any antislavery bill or petition from being introduced, read, or discussed. All petitions are to be tabled and unread. Disagreements over white and blacks mixing in public extends even to antislavery societies.

1837-Alton, Ill., Elijah Lovejoy is murdered and his printing press is destroyed by angry mobs. An editor, who advocated immediate abolition, Lovejoy endured attacks against his printing office in previous years for championing antislavery positions.

1838-Frederick Augustus Washington Bailey escapes from slavery in Maryland, traveling by train to New York, disguised as a sailor. He will change his name to Frederick Douglass. Charles Lenox Remond becomes a professional abolitionist.

1839-The Liberty Party is formed by James G. Birney and other abolitionists, notably African-American leaders Samuel Ringgold Ward and Henry Highland Garnet. The new party will run candidates for presidency in 1840 and 1844.

On board the Spanish slave ship L'Armistad, 48 African slaves, led by Cinque, seize the ship off the coast of Cuba and sail to Long Island. Defended by John Quincy Adams, they will win their freedom in a celebrated Supreme Court case.

Witch hunt or hearings?

Continued from page 3

serious."

Law enforcement agencies are investigating the alleged death threat.

Throughout the afternoon, Muslims and blacks looking on had little to cheer about, until Rep. Payne's concluding remarks. "I think that we have to have balance, fairness and equal justice. On the occasion of the Million Man March," he said in response to the testimony of Mr. Ledeen, "you criticized President Clinton. I guess you probably criticize me, because I was a very strong supporter of the Million Man March."

The congressman continued by explaining the significance of marches and what they can accomplish to Ledeen.

"Let me tell you something about marches. In the 1830s there was a march, because women didn't have the right to vote and they marched. Nothing really new. They had a big march for women's suffrage. In 1932 World War I veterans sought fair compensation from our government and they came and they marched on Washington."

"1963, there was the Great March on Washington, Dr. Martin Luther King and many others. A Phillip Randolph, (Rep.) John Lewis (D-GA), and many others participated. And October 16, 1995 there was another march because it was time to march."

"In our communities we've seen Head Start turned back, Section 8 eliminated, student loans cut down, job training turned around. Medicare and Medicaid turned around. But we see \$2 billion spent on a B-2 Bomber and we see a \$345 billion tax cut, and so it was

time to march.

"I take offense when you tell me why I marched. I marched because my community needed to come together in unity. I marched because we wanted to see a better day. I marched because I want to see hope for young people in the future, and I take offense for you to tell me why I came down with A.M.E. ministers, with Baptist ministers, with community leaders."

"I came down because I had a purpose to come down. A million men came down, for probably a million different reasons, and don't ever tell me that I came down because of a charismatic leader that had to bring me around. Min. Farrakhan probably disagrees with me probably as much as I disagree with him, and that's fine, we're both grown."

"All I'm saying is that I take offense, for all of those people who have marched, for you to feel you have the right to tell me why I participated."

Rep. McKinney was philosophical in the end. "Perhaps, what America needs now—more than ever—is to call recess in the current blood sport that has taken over Washington, and to instead dedicate ourselves to some introspection. It appears to me that, perhaps, the most obvious lesson of today is that we have some healing to do—some healing to do as a nation."

"I intend to rededicate myself to that healing, so that under no circumstance would any fertile ground be found by those who may be—no matter how outlandish the thought—plotting to subvert the government of the United States," she concluded.

Heart attack

Continued from page 6

heart-attack than any other group in the United States. Untreated or poorly controlled high blood pressure and high cholesterol are two of the most important causes of heart attacks and strokes.

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clude free cholesterol lowering medications, (if participants are in the cholesterol part of the program), information and advice about health, and the chance to participate in a national program that could help people live longer and healthier lives. For information on the ALLHAT program, please call 718-430-4285.

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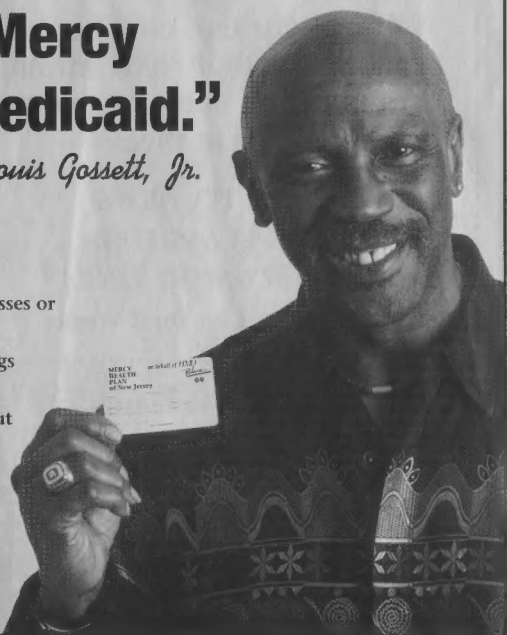
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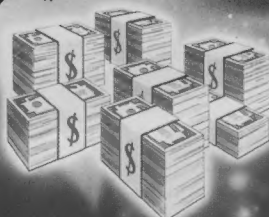
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of major prize winners or a copy of these Official Rules, shall be received by a handwritten request indicating winner's list, official rules or both Challenge at McDonald's, Winners List & Official Rules, P.O. Box 35959, Sts must be received between March 29, 1996, and May 23, 1996.

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1 in 71,262,040	1 in 35,631,020
1 in 35,631,020	1 in 17,815,510
1 in 142,524,079	1 in 71,262,040
1 in 1,676,754	1 in 838,377
1 in 1,425,241	1 in 712,621
1 in 2,850,482	1 in 1,425,241
1 in 1,425,241	1 in 712,621
1 in 285,049	1 in 142,525

1 in 14,250	1 in 7,127
1 in 14,253	1 in 7,127
1 in 448	1 in 224
1 in 5,324	1 in 2,662
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1 in 1,172	1 in 586
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